

Dr. Jaster devotes energy to PSH and D.C. communities

By Jim Miller
Contributor

For Shakespearean scholars, a trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library is an opportunity to examine and evaluate records that date back nearly 400 years. Each year, the library hosts a series of seminars designed to stimulate debate about a particular aspect of Early Modern theater.

Dr. Margaret Jaster, assistant professor of humanities at Penn State Harrisburg, was a participant in a Folger seminar this semester that is exploring techniques of staging Early Modern plays.

"You don't go to seminars to earn credits, but to interact with the best minds in the business," said Dr. Jaster, who is attending her seventh seminar.

Each Friday, Dr. Jaster rode the train to Washington, D.C. to the Folger Library. The group usually meets for a "Brown Bag Colloquium," when one of the scholars delivers a mini-lecture followed by an exchange of ideas on the topic.

"One week there was a discussion on Irish material," Dr. Jaster said. "The scholar was arguing for complete revision on Irish writings. There was a fair amount of discus-

sion on the issue."

Her fellow classmates in the seminar come from such schools as Duke, UCLA, Harvard and New York University. Dr. Jaster jokes that she is the "token state university person."

"You feel part of the scholarly community when you are invited to a seminar," she said. "It is a small group—only about nine people are in that class."

The group spent the first several weeks of class looking at materials pertaining to the process of getting a play onto the stage, such as records of costumes used and other expenses.

"I've been working on this for over ten years, and a lot of what I read I never knew before," Dr. Jaster said.

Later, the focus of the class shifted to a look at individual plays and the difficulties encountered in presenting them to the public. One play that never made it to the London stage was "Sir Thomas More."

"It presented riot scenes, and the powers of the city of London were afraid that if you staged riot scenes, the people would riot," Dr. Jaster said.

Because the play only existed in manuscript form, it is most likely that only a handful of individuals in the 17th century had the opportunity to see it staged.

"There were many plays censored because they were considered too hot to handle," she said.

From a personal standpoint, Dr. Jaster found that the material and techniques used in these seminars have enhanced her enthusiasm for classroom teaching.

"It gives me the opportunity to find out what other people are working on," Dr. Jaster said. "I was introduced to material that will allow me to come up with new scholarly approaches to material with which I'm familiar."

Dr. Jaster, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and taught at George Mason University coming to Penn State Harrisburg, initially feared that her removal from Washington, D.C. area would cause her to lose touch with the influential Shakespeare community in the region.

"I found out I can be part of both the Middletown and Washington communities," she said. "I needed to feel that."



photo by Tina Shearer

John A. Pelna, on-line system manager, at work at the PSH Data Center

Get answers to your questions

Penn State Harrisburg Data Center is the place

By Wendy A. Hess
Contributor

Do you know where you want to live when you graduate? Where to go for the big bucks? Where the yuppies are? Where they aren't?

You can find all of that information, and more, by taking a short trip to the Pennsylvania State Data Center, located in Penn State Harrisburg's Olmsted Building Room 301.

"We are the commonwealth's official source for economic and demographic information," said Joan Campbell, an information specialist at the Center.

The Center uses information from the United States Census taken every ten years, and compiles it into "user friendly" publications and reports.

"We take the most asked for information and make them in to easier to

read publications," Campbell said.

Small business owners, who may not be able to afford to buy the information from a demographic company, are big customers at the Data Center.

"We are here to serve our customers, at the lowest possible rate," Campbell said. "We are not in the business to make a profit, just to cover our overhead."

Often the information is free of charge, Campbell said, depending on what you need, or if you can use the in-office publications. Always free of charge is their catalogue of publications, a complete list of their data offerings.

The information is invaluable to those who are just starting businesses, as well as established ones.

"If you want to start a business, and most of the

people in that area are 65 and over, you don't want to start to a baby store," Campbell said.

In addition to migration trends, income characteristics and economic trends, other publications cover manufacturing trends, educational attainment levels of the labor force, population estimates, and smoking characteristics. There are, however, many more areas of information.

"The amount of information and the detail, like where is the largest Irish population in Pennsylvania, is really amazing," Campbell said.

Each of the states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have Data Centers.

Give yourself a graduation present and pick up their catalogue, or call (717)948-6336 for more information.

"Kid's College '96" highlights summer of activities for Behavioral Science and Education Department

by Ann E. Mease
Staff Reporter

The division of the Behavioral Science Department and Education at Penn State Harrisburg has several interesting events happening through out this year.

Faculty member, Dr. Frank Swetz has recently returned to Penn State from a year long trip to Malaysia and Southeast Asia. Dr. Swetz said that he was able to make the trip due to a Fulbright U.S. exchange program. He was a U. S. information source lecturer, to enhance cultural exchange, within several different Asian countries.

Dr. Swetz traveled to different colleges training mathematics educators for the National Curriculum Training Center, Malaysia. He gave faculty seminars at major Malaysia colleges, including the University of Science, the National University, the University of Technology, and the University of Sabah.

Dr. Swetz has been back and forth to Malaysia since he first traveled there when he was in the Peace

Corps as coordinator of the U.S. Peace Corps Mathematics Inservice Training Program in 1965.

Swetz also was the Editor of the Journal Digest for teachers in Malaysia, 1966-1967. Surveyor for Federal Land Development Authority, Malaysia, 1966, Consultant to the District of Bau, Sarawak(Bridge Construction) 1967.

Dr. Swetz's latest book is called *Learn From the Masters*. It has just been published by the Mathematical Association of America. Dr. Swetz served as the senior editor, and 20 other mathematicians from 12 countries, helped collaborative this book.

Kids College '96 is coming to Penn State Harrisburg this summer, coordinated by Dr. Colleen Willard Holt, a Elementary Education professor at Penn State.

Dr. Holt said that schools from all over the Harrisburg area will be participating in the week-long summer camp. There are twelve courses offered and nine will run.

Our undergraduates

students create the curriculum, implement the curriculum, over a weeks period of time Dr. Holt said This gives the students and opportunity to teach their own classroom, and form their own teaching style

Their will be 30 elementary education majors working on this summer project, using their creativity and knowledge to help these kids have a pleasant learning experience.

Jody Gebhard a elementary education major said, "I have created my own curriculum about Antarctica, to teach the kids about life in this area."

Gebhard said it has taken her two months to create this assignment, which will give her real life teaching experience, and valuable classroom training techniques.

The program will incorporate current methods, such as interdisciplinary curriculum, multi age grouping, with a diverse student body.

Summer programs planned are for elementary and middle school children with activities such as Olde Penn State Village, Civil War,

Whales and More Whales, Kids in Space and Engineering.

Next on the agenda of activities is The Association of Gifted Education Annual Conference hosted this year by Penn State Harrisburg.

Dr. Holt said that this conference is held every year either in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, or Philadelphia, for adults and children who are intellectually gifted.

Fifty of the elementary education undergraduate majors from Penn State Harrisburg will be helping coordinate and supervise this conference. The theme this year is connecting the Past to the Future using Harvard graduate Howard Gardner's The Theory of Multiple Intelligence, Dr. Holt said.

Gardner's theory is used starting with Linguistic, Logical/Mathematical, Musical, Spatial, Bodily-Kinesthetic, Intrapersonal intelligence All the activities at the conference will be based on these seven steps of how is your kid smart instead of how smart is your kids, said Holt.

Communications Students offer farewell tribute to Dr. Beth Haller

Dear Dr. Haller:

You have taught us the strength and the power of our words, and now we find ourselves using those words to say good bye to you.

So how are we to say good bye to our professor—the person who so instinctively balances the roles of teacher, advisor, confidant, and yes, even friend?

Through your teaching, we have gained much knowledge and many skills, but you also offered us the ability and freedom to learn on our own.

You have taught us not only through your words, but by your example.

Through your guidance, we have overcome many obstacles. You had the confidence that we could accomplish our goals—even when we didn't.

You expected the best in us—and we soon learned to expect it in ourselves.

Although we are sad that we will not be spending our senior year with you, we are happy for the new opportunities that await you.

We have no doubt that you will have a significant impact on the educational experience of your new students, just as you have had with the students at Penn State Harrisburg.

Before you go, however, we want to tell you that you have made a lasting impression on our education and on our lives.

Your words and your teaching will continue to guide us even after you have departed this campus.

We appreciate the commitment or the time and energy which you have given each of us, and we thank you.

So how will we say good bye? We will not, but instead will wish you well and much success until our paths cross again. Sincerely your students,
Jody, Kelley, Wendy, Miriam, and Ann